

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 2000

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the House chamber for the day of Thursday, October 12th.

CONGRATULATING THE SAN LUIS OBISPO SYMPHONY'S CUARTETO DE LAS MISIONES ON THEIR PERFORMANCE AT THE KENNEDY CENTER IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 2000

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I honor the San Luis Obispo Symphony String Quartet, Cuarteto de las Misiones who have traveled from San Luis Obispo, California to perform tonight at the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage State Days Series. The Cuarteto is Sharon Holland, Ginette Reitz, Mary Houston, and Ken Hustad.

I had the privilege of nominating the Cuarteto to represent the great state of California for the Kennedy Center's program because they have demonstrated a wonderful commitment to their community, a unique sound, and inspiring talent.

The San Luis Obispo String Quartet has been performing at Central Coast schools for over a decade. Last Spring, the quartet was reorganized and renamed the Cuarteto de las Misiones and began working with local Grammy-nominated composer, musicologist and California Polytechnic State University music professor Dr. Craig Russell to design an in-school program for 3rd and 4th graders.

Dr. Russell has devoted the past several years to uncovering a wealth of music originally performed in California and Mexico during the colonial days. Through his discoveries, he has been able to demonstrate that there was a far richer musical life on the West Coast of the United States than was previously thought. Thanks to Dr. Russell, works by European immigrants to California and Mexico, once performed by the Chumash and Salinan people are being performed again after 200 years of silence.

Cuarteto de las Misiones presents a narrated musical journey comparing the unique styles of mid-18th Century western culture. The quartet's performance this evening will include Dr. Russell's arrangements of the newly rediscovered music of the missions, mountain music and reels of the eastern United States and the chamber music enjoyed in Europe's finest salons.

Mr. Speaker, this exciting new program has not only sparked my interest, but has received notice from the California Arts Council and has become part of their "Rural and Inner City Presenting Program" (RICP). They are a fine example for the community and I am proud to be their Representative.

I would like to give thanks to the San Luis Obispo County Community Foundation and the Hock Family Foundation for their generous support of the Cuarteto de las Misiones, and to the ensemble itself for their invaluable contribution to the Central Coast.

THE STEENS MOUNTAIN COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION ACT OF 2000

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 2000

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with my colleagues two letters I received concerning the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Act of 2000 (H.R. 4828) that was debated on the House Floor on October 4, 2000.

House Resolution 4828 was supported by the entire Oregon congressional delegation and is the product of a long and hard-fought battle to ensure that there was an Oregon solution to an Oregon issue. I submit the following letters into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY'S
WILDERNESS SUPPORT CENTER

DEAR CONGRESSMAN WALDEN: Although this bill does not contain everything we wanted, we believe that this is a responsible resolution of a very important issue. This bill will grant lasting protection for the wildlands, wildlife, and waters of the magnificent Steens Mountain region. We support its passage today.

BART KOEHLER,
Director.

Recreation Service Providers on Steens Mountain—

The outfitting and guiding industry has been in existence on a small scale and in a variety of ways on Steens Mountain since the early days of trappers and military scouts. From the early 1900's until the early 1960's outfitters, particularly homesteader Chester Nye and partner Paul Howard, primarily offered hunting and fishing trips to the very wealthy into the inaccessible backcountry of the Steens. The completion of the Steens Mountain Loop Road opened up all of the hunting areas that Nye and Howard depended upon for their enterprise and consequently put them out of business. Shortly after during the mid-1970's, the homestead known as the Nye Place consisting of several guest cabins and a cookhouse on the rim of the Little Blitzen Gorge and which Nye and Howard had used was taken over by Velti Pruitt and his summer camp for girls.

From that time until now, outfitters and guides, otherwise known as recreational service providers, have continually modified the services they offer based on the needs and demands of the outfitted public using Steens Mountain. Currently, Steens Mountain has eight permitted outfitters operating on both public and private lands providing a wide range of recreational services. These current and historical uses include: cross-country high-altitude running training, big game hunting, upland bird hunting, fishing and heli-fishing, multiple day horse packing, trail riding, multiple day llama packing, backpacking, day hiking, mountain biking,

ATV touring, van/pickup tours, snowmobiling, cross-country and backcountry skiing with and without motorized support (snow machine or helicopter), snow shoeing, and snowcat touring. With all of these activities, many service providers include interpretive and educational information to their programs, and/or use these various modes of transportation or travel to provide interpretive and educational services. Additionally, a number of the permitted recreation service providers have historically conducted activities on private lands that may be transferred into public ownership through this legislation. All of these uses are considered current and historical uses and fall under the purpose of promoting viable recreation operations on Steens Mountain.

It should be noted that while there are thousands of places to go in the United States to engage in outdoor recreation, Steens Mountain is a unique natural attraction and is the chosen vacation destination for nearly 100 percent of the 56,000 people currently coming to the region. In fact beginning in 1975, the Bureau of Land Management began tracking visitor numbers of those using the Steens Mountain Loop Road. These visitor numbers have increased over 278 percent since 1975, and with a new designation will likely continue to increase. There will no doubt be a corresponding growth in the numbers of the outfitted public seeking experiences with the permitted recreation service providers on the Steens. As part of ensuring the viability of the recreation operations on Steens Mountain which is a purpose of this legislation, these permitted recreation service providers should be allowed to meet the growth and additional needs of the outfitted public within the current and historic activities they provide.

Further most outfitters, pre-legislation, have invested a great deal into their recreation service operations and public land permits to provide services to the public. Some of the investments are recent and substantial. Because of this the operators may not have had time to realize a return on these investments. One example of this, and there are many, is Steens Mountain Packers helicopter supported activities particularly the backcountry ski heli-supported program. A great deal of time and money went into the exploration of the Steens to provide a compatible and safe service to the public. The legislation, designation and future management thereof may terminate the operators opportunity to recoup investments with the possible termination of the activity within a given area, such as wilderness. In staying in conformance with the purpose of the Act, the operator should be appropriately compensated for the loss of revenue from the activity, or exchanged for a reasonable like permit. Because of the uniqueness of the area, a like opportunity may be difficult to provide. It should be noted that an opportunity or permit entirely outside of the area may well not be considered a reasonable option (e.g.—a permit in Catlow Valley would not necessarily be a reasonable alternative to an existing permit within the Blitzen Gorge, nor a permit in Idaho as an alternative to a permit on Steens Mountain.).

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